



## Protection and Advocacy Agencies (P&As)

P&A (Protection and Advocacy) agencies exist in all states and territories and receive funds under eight federal programs. (There is also a Native American P&A in the four corners region of the Southwest.) PAAT (Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology) was created to assist individuals with disabilities in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services through case management, legal representation and self advocacy training.

The P&A network is the nation's largest provider of legally based advocacy services for individuals with disabilities. While most clients have low incomes, P&A statutes allow agencies to serve all individuals with disabilities without any income restriction. (Public Law 108:364: The Assistive Technology Act of 2004) Each individual P&A is required to set yearly priorities. Priorities determine which disability related issues the P&A will address that year.

A PAAT Director, with links to web sites and e-mail contacts, can be found at:  
<http://www.nls.org/paatsta.htm>

A description of all eight funding sources can be found at the National Disability Rights Network site, as well as guidelines for when one may want to contact their state P&A agency.  
[http://www.ndrn.org/aboutus/PA\\_CAP.htm](http://www.ndrn.org/aboutus/PA_CAP.htm)

## The National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project

This AT project supports the advocacy efforts of attorneys, advocates, service agencies, persons with disabilities and their families as they seek funding for AT services and devices. A project of Neighborhood Legal Services of New York, the following web site contains links to many publications concerning advocating for, and funding of, assistive technology.  
<http://www.nls.org/natmain.htm>

For example:

*Funding of Assistive Technology to Make Work a Reality; Through Special Education Programs, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Medicaid, Medicare and SSI's Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS Plan)* <http://www.nls.org/Work%20&%20AT.htm#Toc85510168>



Promote, Protect  
and Advocate

*Work Incentives for Persons with Disabilities Under the Social Security and SSI Programs;*  
(This contains a list of acronyms that may be useful.)  
[http://www.nls.org/work\\_incentives.htm](http://www.nls.org/work_incentives.htm)

*A Survey of Programs and Funding Sources for Assistive Technology*  
other than the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA)  
<http://www.nls.org/pdf/speced.pdf>

## National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP)

The Technical Assistance Project is funded to provide assistance to the AT Act Grantees to assist them in reducing barriers and increasing access to assistive technology (AT) devices and services for consumers of all ages with disabilities. This project also provides technical assistance in the areas related to universal design, state procurement actions, and funding of AT.  
<http://www.resna.org/taproject/about/index.html>

A list of state programs can be accessed at:  
<http://www.resna.org/taproject/at/statecontacts.html#mn>

## The Family Center on Technology and Disability

The Family Center is a resource designed to support organizations and programs that work with families of children and youth with disabilities. We offer a range of information and services on the subject of assistive technology. Whether you're an organization, a parent, an educator, or an interested friend, we hope you'll find information that supports you in your efforts to bring the highest quality education to children with disabilities. <http://www.fctd.info>

### Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology  
4477 Emerald Street, Suite B-100  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 336-5353  
<http://users.moscow.com/co-ad>